United Nations S/2000/821

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 20 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I wish to transmit to you the attached letter dated 14 August 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the question of the delimitation of the continental shelf in the Arabian Gulf.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61627 (E) 230800 230800

Annex to the letter dated 20 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have become aware of statements in the press quoting officials of the Iranian and Kuwaiti Governments implying the intention of Iran and Kuwait to reach an understanding on the delimitation of the continental shelf between those two countries.

Although the Government of the Republic of Iraq has not been officially notified of what has been agreed between the two countries, because it is one of the coastal States of the Gulf and because of the potential impact of any agreement on its rights, Iraq issued a statement on 27 July 2000 indicating as follows:

1. Any delimitation of the continental shelf in this region must be made by agreement among all the States, including Iraq, that have political rights over the continental shelf for the prospection and exploitation of natural resources, in order to achieve an equitable solution based on article 83 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.

2. Iraq affirms its categorical rejection of any agreement that violates its legitimate rights over the Iraqi continental shelf and considers that the stability and security of the region, and the well-being of its peoples, can only be achieved in the framework of compliance with international law and respect for its provisions, and through the cooperation of all States in order to attain that objective.

In view of the importance of this matter, and on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, we hope that you will draw the attention of both countries thereto and will regard this letter as an official document for circulation to all Member States of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq